

CLAIMS

1. A barrier formulation which comprises an emulsion having at least an oil phase comprising a silicone compound and an aqueous phase, the viscosity of the formulation being 20000 cps or less, and the formulation further comprising an active ingredient, and one or more of an emollient, an excipient, a thickener, an emulsifier, a neutralising agent, a preservative, and water.
2. A formulation as defined in claim 1 wherein the silicone compound is a silicone fluid.
3. A formulation as defined in claim 2, wherein the silicone fluid is selected from dimethicone, a silicone emulsion, a dimethicone cross polymer, and a polydimethylsiloxane.
4. A formulation as defined in any one of the preceding claims, which comprises from 0.1 to 10% by weight, from 0.5 to 5% by weight, or from 1% to 2% by weight of the silicone compound.
5. A formulation as defined in any one of the preceding claims wherein the active ingredient is selected from one or more of a chemical or physical sun protection agent, an insect repellent, an anti-bacterial agent, an anti-inflammatory agent, a non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug, an analgesic, an anti-erythematous agent, an anti-pruritic agent, an anti-edematous agent, an anti-psoriatic agent, an anti-fungal agent, a skin protectant, a vitamin, an anti-oxidant, an anti-irritant, an anti-viral agent, an anti-aging agent, a wound healing agent, a tissue healing substance, and a steroid.
6. A formulation as defined in claim 4, wherein the active ingredient is an anti-bacterial agent selected from triclosan, chlorhexidine, tea tree oil and alexidine.

7. A formulation as defined in any one of the preceding claims, wherein the active ingredient is present in an amount from 0.5 to 10% by weight of the formulation, from 1 to 5% by weight, or about 2% by weight.

5 8. A formulation as defined in any one of the preceding claims which further comprises a fragrance.

9. A formulation as defined in any one of the preceding claims, wherein the formulation comprises the following ingredients in the approximate ranges indicated:

Ingredient	Range (wt%)
Castor oil	0.5-3.0
Stearic acid	0.5-8.0
Glycerol stearate	0.1-3.0
Cetyl palmitate	0.1-2.0
Silicone fluid	0.1-10
Nipastat	0.1-0.5
Jobba oil	0.1-0.5
Liquid paraffin	0.1-0.5
Active ingredient	0.5-10
Water	35-95
Carbomer	0.5-8.0
Aloe vera	0.1-2.0
Monopropylene glycol	2.0-15
Triethanolamine	0.1-2.0

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10. A barrier formulation as defined in any one of the preceding claims, for use as a skin barrier for humans or animals.

11. A barrier formulation as defined in any one of claims 1 to 9, for use in
15 medicine, including veterinary medicine.

12. Use of a formulation as defined in any one of claims 1 to 9, in the manufacture of a medicament for use in the treatment and/or prophylaxis of infections.
13. Use of a formulation as defined in claim 12, wherein the medicament is for use in the treatment and/or prophylaxis of skin infections.
14. Use of a formulation as defined in claim 12, wherein the medicament is for use in the treatment and/or prophylaxis of hospital acquired infections.
15. Use of a formulation as defined in claims 12 or 13, wherein the medicament is for use in the treatment and/or prophylaxis of skin infections in animals.
16. Use of a formulation as defined in claim 15, wherein the medicament is for use in the treatment and/or prophylaxis of mastitis infection and/or the spread of mastitis infection between farm animals.
17. Use of a formulation as defined in claim 15, wherein the medicament is for use in the treatment and/or prophylaxis of teat sores in animals
18. A method for the treatment and/or prophylaxis of skin conditions, the method comprising applying a barrier formulation as defined in any one of claims 1 to 9 to the skin.
19. A method for the treatment and/or prophylaxis of infection, the method comprising applying a barrier formulation of any one of claims 1 to 9 to a human or animal.
20. A method for the treatment and/or prevention of hospital acquired infections, the method comprising administering a barrier formulation as defined in any of claims 1 to 9 to a health care worker.

21. A method of manufacturing a formulation comprising an emulsion having at least an oil phase and an aqueous phase wherein the oil phase comprises a silicone compound which method comprises the steps of:

- 5 (a) preparing an oil phase containing a silicone compound;
- (b) preparing an aqueous phase;
- (c) mixing the oil phase and the aqueous phase together;
- (d) neutralising the mixture with a neutralising agent.

22. A method as defined in claim 21 wherein the water phase is added to the oil
10 phase to obtain an oil-in-water emulsion.